The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Proportional Representation and the Bill.

The supporters of Proportional Representation in the House of Lords have put forward a proposal which will greatly simplify the difficulties and delays of its introduction at this stage of the Bill. The proposal, as Lord Selborne telegraphed to Mr. Arthur Henderson and to Mrs. Fawcett last week, is to insert on the Report stage a short clause to make possible the immediate commencement of registration under the Bill, even while the grouping of constituencies for purposes of Proportional Representation is going on. The proposed new schedule arranges further that if the Bill should be carried with the principle of P.R. in it, the subsequent adjustments of boundaries or grouping of constituencies agreed upon by the Boundary Commissioners should be passed by Order in Council, after lying upon the table in both Houses for objection to be taken if desired.

This ingenious solution of a rather complicated difficulty cuts the ground away from those who say that its introduction will delay or wreck the Reform Bill. Indeed, in the face of the large majority in the House of Lords, it seems as if the rejection of P.R. in the Commons might prove the more serious obstacle, since it might involve a prolonged disagreement between the two Houses. Our interest in the matter is frankly selfish; and we are sorry that the House of Commons rejected the proposal in the fear that its inclusion would retard the Bill, when it seems that the rejection may have the same effect. In any case, however, we believe the Bill is safe.

Maternity Benefit.

The Government have decided not to press their proposal in the National Health Insurance Bill to provide a benefit of £2 to every insured woman who notifies her approved society of her marriage. Viscount Sandhurst announced in the House of Lords on Tuesday that he would bring in an amendment somewhat on the lines of that proposed by Lord Knutsford, which will have the effect that insured women who leave work on marriage shall have a year's free insurance and £2 maternity benefit for the first child if born within two years.

The Workhouse to Go.

Very drastic changes are recommended in the Report of the Local Government Committee appointed by the Minister of Reconstruction last July to consider the steps to be taken to secure the better co-ordination of public assistance, and other matters affecting the system of local government. This report was issued on February 23rd as a White Paper. The most important recommendation is the abolition of Boards of Guardians and the Poor Law Union, and the transference of the functions of these bodies to the County Councils and the County Borough Councils. The general mixed workhouses, the Committee state, would, under their scheme, cease to exist as an institution. Very far-reaching reforms are also suggested for giving "home assistance" for dealing with the sick and infirm, the mentally deficient, and the able-bodied unemployed. The question of the Reform of the Poor Law is discussed by Mrs. Sidney Webb in an article on page 545. Other articles on this subject were published in THE COMMON CAUSE on January 4th ("The Taint of Pauperism," by the Countess of Selborne), on January 18th ("Poor Law Reform," by the Countess of Selborne), and on January 25th ("Poor Law Relief—A Plea for the Widow," by "A Poor Law Official").

A Significant Change.

The change both in the actual status of women to-day, and in the mental attitude of the average intelligent man towards her was, as it seemed to a spectator, very clearly illustrated at a recent conference held under the auspices of one of the seven Government departments. About half of those present were women, and they were all there—except perhaps the said spectator—for very definite business reasons. They all meant something and they all stood for something. The idea of the conference had originated in the mind of one woman (an active Suffragist of many years); the convener was another, while the hostess, whose training and organising ability must have been most severely taxed, and stood the strain triumphantly, was a shining example of what are, perhaps, the more old-fashioned and expected abilities of women. The speakers were more often men than women, but the women's contributions were invariably terse and to the point, and were listened to with respect. All through the discussion the new attitude towards women's work, and women's contributions to the solution of many pressing problems, was clearly marked, and to a detached spectator very significant.

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

The question of equal pay for equal work is one which bears much discussion, and the Conference convened by the Fabian Women's Group and the Fabian Research Committee a short time ago, brought to light some interesting differences of point of view. There seem to be three main causes which militate against women receiving the same pay as men for the same work. One is the theory that men have to support a family out of their wages. The family in this case means a wife and children, for as far as aged parents and other dependents are concerned women are as often called on to support them as men. But there is a growing belief among one group of reformers that children ought to be the charge of the State, while another group lays stress on the necessity for the payment of mothers for their special work. Either of these changes, if it came about, would free the husband from the need of supporting a family, since the wife, if childless, could support herself. The second theory that works against equal

"May WE have Huts, too?"

Our thanks are due

to the readers of "The Common Cause" for the magnificent way in which they are responding to our appeal for the "Common Cause HUT No. 3." Already the sum of **£350** has been subscribed, leaving **£400** still to come to complete the £750 required.

Time is pressing, however, and we urge all who have not already given, to send in their donations **at once.**

The Extraordinary Success of the "COMMON CAUSE" Huts No. 1 and 2 has encouraged the Editor to appeal to the readers of this journal for money to provide and maintain another hut, which is now urgently needed on SALISBURY PLAIN, for the use of 200—300 W.A.A.C. girls, working in two special branches of the service. This hut, which is to be known as

The "Common Cause" HUT No. 3

must be erected within a month from now.

It will contain RECREATION ROOM, LIGHT CANTEEN, and sleeping accommodation for two permanent Y.W.C.A. workers.

The "Common Cause" Hut No. 1 is doing a wonderful work at **COVENTRY.** It now has **OVER 1,100 MEMBERS** and is the largest and best equipped **Y.W.C.A.** hut ever erected.

The "Common Cause" Hut No. 2 in **FRANCE** is the largest **Y.W.C.A.** hut on the Western Front. Although only recently provided, it is crowded every day, and is a perfect boon to the girls.

Please Send YOUR "BIT" TO-DAY!

Remember: This "named" Hut will be a perpetual reminder to our girls of our love and sympathy, and will incidentally give publicity to the great cause which our journal represents.

Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be addressed to the Editor of the "Common Cause," Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

Y.W.C.A. Subscription Form.

Date _____

To the Editor of "The Common Cause,"
Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

I enclose £ _____ as my subscription to "THE COMMON CAUSE HUT, No. 3."

Name _____

Address _____

SUPPORT OUR APPEALS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when sending donations.

wages for women is the belief that their tendency to leave their wage-earning occupation on marriage makes them a less dependable form of labour. It was, however, brought out in the discussion that this is only a disadvantage in some occupations; in others it may be an advantage from the employer's point of view to have a stream of young labour, and a tendency to change of occupation in those who might otherwise grow stale at their work. If decent wages and a system of maternity or child pensions gave freedom to individual women to follow their respective vocations, it might result in children being taken care of by those who had a real gift for it, while women who had special love and aptitude for a skilled trade or profession could remain in it after marriage.

But we are some way from that yet, and those who listen to discussions on the subject, especially to speeches by male speakers, often come away with the feeling that, when all is said and done, the chief obstacle in the way of equal pay for women is the blind force of custom, which makes many employers believe that they can continue for ever to treat women as cheap labour; and many trade unionists believe that they can continue to content themselves with demanding for women only half or three-quarters of what they demand for men.

Unequal Pay for Equal Work.

Meanwhile, bad instances of unequal pay for what appears to be equal work are constantly brought to our notice. One was the decision of the Civil Service Tribunal on the claim of temporary postmen and postwomen. The men were awarded the same increase of wages as the permanent staff—*i.e.*, six shillings a week, but the temporary postwomen were only awarded two-thirds of this sum; and the same principle was followed throughout the awards in the remuneration of women. Another is the minimum rates of pay prescribed by the Board of Education for men and women teachers, certificated men £100 per annum, women £90 per annum. In this case, women undergo exactly the same training and do exactly the same work as men, and there seems no reason at all except custom for paying them less.

Skilled Women Workers.

Dr. Addison has appointed a committee of manufacturers and business men, with Mr. H. D. McLaren, M.P., as Chairman, to make a list of articles suitable for manufacture by engineers which can be made in this country, and for which there is likely to be a demand after the war. The list will classify articles that can be made by women, by men and women, and by skilled men, and will show the industries to which the new manufactures could best be attached. The drawing-up of a separate list reserved for skilled men will be viewed with alarm by the women who have acquired some special skill during the war, and are anxious to utilise that skill to the best advantage under peace conditions. Are they, when their work is no longer required for munitions of war, to be relegated to semi-skilled trades at a much less rate of pay than they have hitherto earned, and all their training and patient practice wasted? We hope that no artificial distinction will be insisted upon between men's work and women's work.

The Overstaffing of Government Offices.

The Women's Interests Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is organising a memorial which is being signed by the most important women's organisations, protesting against the exclusion of women from the committee formed to consider the question of the overstaffing of Government offices. It is felt that, at a time when so much of the clerical work of the Government Departments is entrusted to women and girls, it is most urgent that suitable women should at once be appointed to the Committee, which is already sitting, and which will concern itself with matters immediately affecting the futures of many thousands of women.

This question was dealt with in THE COMMON CAUSE last week in an article by Miss Ruth Young.

A Call to Economy.

A manifesto calling upon well-to-do women to lead the way in the practice and teaching of economy has been issued by a number of representative women. Among those who have signed it are Mrs. Lloyd George, Chairman, Women's Auxiliary Committee for War Savings; Miss Beatrice Chamberlain, Vice-Chairman, Women's Auxiliary Committee on War Savings; Mrs. Creighton, Ex-President of the National Union of Women Workers; Mrs. Fawcett, President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies; Lady Londonderry, President of the Women's Legion; Lady Kinnaird, Acting Vice-President, National Y.W.C.A.; The Hon. Lady Cunliffe, President of the Girls' Friendly Society; Mrs. Glover, Honorary Secretary of the National Organisation of Girls' Clubs; and Mrs. Humphry Ward, Chairman of the League for Opposing Women's Suffrage.

The Manifesto points out that while many people are practising strict personal economy, their example is counterbalanced by the ostentatious display of a minority. This is especially the case with regard to dress, changes of fashion in which imply serious waste of labour and material. The signatories therefore appeal to all women to deny themselves for the sake of victory, and to invest the money they can save in War Savings Certificates or National War Loan.

OBITUARY.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN.

Sir William Wedderburn, Bart., of Balindean, who died at Meredith, near Gloucester, last week, in his eightieth year, was a staunch supporter of Women's Suffrage, voting for Mr. Faithful Begg's Bill in 1897, when he was M.P. for Banffshire, and signing the memorial with regard to the Women's Local Government Franchise in November, 1917. He also took a very active part in promoting the education of Indian women, and organised the deputation on this subject headed by Mrs. Fawcett in October, 1915. The deputation urged that better provision for Indian girls' education was a pressing necessity, even in war-time, and pointed out that this is in a more backward state in British India than in several of the native-ruled States.

Sir William was also in keen sympathy with the movement for giving greater self-government to India. In 1889 he founded the British Committee of the Indian National Congress, of which he remained Chairman until his death, giving it very generous financial support.

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS.

PROSPECTS OF THE FEDERAL SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association has been collecting opinions with regard to the chances of ratification by the several States of the Federal Suffrage Amendment, and has received telegrams urging the passage of the amendment from a number of State Governors. The latest bulletin of the Association states:—

"Governor Whitman has already spoken for New York. Governor Lister is sure the Washington Legislature will ratify the amendment if it is passed by Congress. He calls attention to the fact that Washington has passed a joint memorial asking Congress to submit the amendment. Governor Stewart of Montana writes: 'I hope Federal Amendment will pass. Montana favours Woman Suffrage.'"

From Wyoming, the State that has had the largest experience with Woman Suffrage, comes the following: "After forty-nine years of experience with Woman Suffrage, Wyoming enthusiastically and unqualifiedly may recommend the adoption by the nation of the Federal Woman Suffrage Amendment."

Governor Boyle says Nevada's people "want to see Suffrage established nation-wide as part of federal constitution."

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The Bill to give married women the right to choose their own nationality, which was introduced in the House of Representatives last May by Miss Jeannette Rankin, was given a hearing on December 13th and 14th by the Committee on Immigration in the House. It was drafted, as well as presented, by a woman, being drawn up by Dean Ellen Spencer Mussey, of the Washington Law College, and provides that, upon marriage with an alien, an American woman may retain her own nationality, or she may renounce her nationality in a court competent to grant naturalisation.

A WOMAN LEGISLATOR.

Mrs. Ralph Smith was elected on January 24th to represent Vancouver in the Provincial Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, being the first woman thus elected.

"And shall I have a Parliamentary Vote?"

Now that the Representation of the People Bill is passing through its last stages the question of the particular women who are to have the right to be registered as Parliamentary voters under it becomes interesting, not only to the Suffragist who has been helping to pilot the measure into port, but also to the ordinary woman, to the political agent, and even to the man-in-the-street. It has been encouraging for Suffragists to note as the first fruits of the reform the expression of pleasurable anticipation on the faces of women, hitherto quite uninterested, when they have asked: "And shall I have a Parliamentary vote?" This article seeks to give an answer to the question with respect to women electors throughout the United Kingdom.

Age of Women Parliamentary Voters

The first essential qualification for the Parliamentary vote is for a woman to be thirty years of age. No woman under thirty can qualify as an elector, but a woman of thirty or over can qualify in nine different ways. In five of these nine ways she can qualify in her own right, whether she is married or single; while a married woman can become an elector in four ways in virtue of a qualification enjoyed by her husband.

How a Woman Qualifies in Her Own Right.

A woman, married or single, can qualify in her own right as an owner, tenant, lodger, or service voter, that is to say in any of the following five ways:

(1) If she owns and *occupies*, that is to say herself makes use of any land, house, shop, or building of whatever kind, however small its annual value. She would, however, not have the right to vote, for example, if the property in question were owned by her but let to and *occupied* by a tenant.

(2) If she is the tenant of and *occupies* any land, house, shop, or building of whatever kind, however low its rental.

(3) If she rents a room or rooms as a lodger, however low the rent, but only when she has taken the room or rooms from the landlord in an unfurnished state and has herself provided the furniture.

A woman whether in the house of relatives or of strangers can become qualified, if she pays a rent for her room unfurnished and herself supplies the furniture. It was a prevalent custom for sons to qualify as lodgers in their parents' houses under the old franchise laws. Now that there is no limit of value for a lodger's room it becomes much easier. Indeed, it will be possible for any woman who pays a rent, however small, for her room unfurnished and provides the furniture herself, to become a Parliamentary voter. This will be the case whether she lives on these terms with complete strangers or with her own relatives. It means, however, that she must have complete control of the room with right of access to it at any time. She ought to have a latchkey. It would not be applicable to domestic servants living in. Women who are anxious to have the Parliamentary vote and who have not houses of their own but live in lodgings or with their people, should buy their own furniture and rent an unfurnished room or rooms whether in the house of their own people or with strangers.

(4) If she occupies a house by reason of her employment, unless her employer also lives in the same house. This is called the service franchise. For example, a school mistress who has a house to live in as part of her salary would be qualified to vote, while a woman caretaker of an employer's dwelling house would not.

(5) If she is a graduate of any University in the United Kingdom, or at Oxford or Cambridge has passed such examinations and kept such residence as would entitle her to receive a degree, if she were a man. Honorary graduates are not qualified to be electors, since the degree which entitles to a vote must have been secured by examination.

How a Married Woman Qualifies Through Her Husband.

A married woman, who herself has none of the above qualifications (1) to (5) is entitled to be registered as a Parliamentary elector and to vote, if her husband has any of the first four qualifications (1), (2), (3), or (4), mentioned above, that is, if he has the owner, tenant, lodger, or service qualification as defined above. The wife of a university graduate, however, does not become an elector in virtue of her husband's degree.

Register of Electors and Qualifying Period.

Two Parliamentary registers are to be made up each year with the names of those qualified by one or other of the first four qualifications above, one on January 15th, called the Spring Register, and one on July 15th called the Autumn Register. A woman or her husband, as the case may be, must have occupied the qualifying premises for at least six months, called the "qualifying period," and be occupying them at the date of the making up of the register in order that she may be qualified to be registered. For example, a woman will be entitled to be registered as a lodger in the Spring Register, made up on January 15th, 1918, if she has taken her lodgings in an unfurnished state on, or before, July 15th, 1917, and is still in these lodgings on January 15th, 1918. This Spring Register will be the one used for any election which takes place between April 15th and October 15th, 1918.

The rules for the making up of university registers are left to the universities themselves. These are given power to charge a fee of not more than one pound for the registration of the recipient of a degree or of one who has already received a degree, but was not before the passing of the new Act entitled to vote in respect of it.

Special Provisions for Women with the Navy or Army.

Women who are serving on full pay as members of the Navy or Army, or who are abroad or afloat in connection with the war, serving in any work of the British Red Cross Society, or the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, or any other body with a similar object, are included among the "naval and military voters," and are admitted to registration on easier terms than the ordinary woman in two different ways.

(1) Such a woman may be registered as a Parliamentary elector for any constituency for which she would have been qualified but for her absence on war service, but she requires to make a claim to be so registered. For example, it would seem that a woman who had let her house while she was abroad as a nurse on war service could claim to be registered under this provision, although she had not been "occupying" her house.

(2) A woman naval or military voter going into new premises does not in order to qualify require to have occupied them for more than one month, if she has been serving at any time during the six months of the normal qualifying period. For example, a woman doctor giving up her war service in October, 1917, would be in a position to qualify as an unfurnished lodger by January 15th, 1918, if she took new lodgings any time up to December 15th, 1917, instead of requiring to have entered them before July 15th, 1917.

No provision seems to have been made to enable soldiers' wives, who may be without a qualification for no other reason than their husband's war service, to qualify on a shorter term of residence.

Absent Voters and Proxies.

Women who are naval or military voters as described in the preceding paragraph, if they are to be abroad, should make application to have themselves registered as absent voters in their home constituency, and, if they are graduates, also in their university constituency. Once so registered, but not otherwise, they will be able to vote in the election. Registered absent voters who are not very far by post from the United Kingdom will receive voting papers by post. Those who are further off will only be able to vote by proxy. It is, therefore, important that any woman who is likely to be abroad should be particular that she is not only registered as an absent voter, but that, in applying to be so registered, she should at the same time name a proxy, man or woman, empowered to vote on her behalf. It is as well to name a proxy in any case, because, should she be within range of the postal vote she would vote herself; while, if she were further off, the proxy would be ready to cast her vote for her.

Joint Occupiers.

Where a number of persons occupy premises or land for the purpose of a profession, trade, or business, every one of the partners is entitled to a vote. For example, three dressmaker sisters carrying on business together as partners would all be entitled to vote for their business premises. On the other hand, where a house is occupied jointly as a dwelling-house by more than two persons, only two are able to qualify as joint occupiers. If four sisters were the joint tenants of their home, they would have to arrange among themselves which two should be registered as occupying tenant Parliamentary electors. It will no doubt be asked whether in such a family of four living together in the same house it would not be possible for two to be tenants and the other two to rent unfurnished rooms, provide their own furniture, and become qualified for registration as lodgers. As I read the Bill—others may interpret it differently—it will not be possible to have more than two tenants or one tenant and one lodger qualified. If, however, a man is the tenant and his wife becomes a Parliamentary voter because of his tenancy, it will be possible for one daughter or one other person to become a lodger voter—at least as I understand the Bill.

Can Women Vote in More than One Constituency?

While it is made comparatively easy for a man to vote in two constituencies, no woman except a university elector will be able to have two votes, one for her university candidate and one in a constituency where she or her husband is an owner, tenant, lodger, or service voter, as described in (1), (2), (3), and (4) above.

How to Get upon the Register.

It is the business of the authorities set up under the new Act to place on the register the names of all those qualified to

be electors, except in the two cases specified below. Since, however, the first register made up on January 15th, 1918, will have to be compiled without any old register to act as a guide, it is very important that any woman who believes that she is qualified, or who even thinks there is a possibility that she might be qualified, should ascertain whether, in fact, her name has been registered. This she can find out from the register of her constituency, which should be ready for inspection after February 1st, in sufficient time to make it possible for her to put in a claim by February 18th, 1918. The making of a claim is quite a simple matter, because the registration officer supplies a form on which the claim can be made, and has power without elaborate formality to accept it as good.

There are two exceptions to this general rule that the registration officer is responsible for making the lists of electors. The first is the men and women naval and military voters referred to above, who, in some cases, require to make a claim. A university, also, is given power—it may not always be exercised—to make regulations requiring that the electors voting as graduates of that University shall make a claim before being registered. It is, therefore, of very great importance that any women who believe themselves to be naval or military voters, or who are graduates, who may be required to make a claim, should write to the registration officer of Parliamentary electors in their constituency to ascertain whether they have been registered, and if they find they have not, at once to make a claim to be registered.

Doubtful Cases.

Since it is by no means easy to master the various reservations attached to the women's vote, whether Parliamentary or Local Government, and there are certain to arise many difficulties in the interpretation of the Act, as, for example, the doubtful case about the possible number of lodgers given above, women should in no instance omit to make a claim if there is any possibility that they may be qualified. This has to be done before February 18th, unless the date is postponed (see below).

English, Welsh, and Irish Local Government Electors.

The women who have the right to vote at Local Government elections that is to say, for Town, County, Rural District, Urban District, and Parish Councils, and for the London County and Borough Councils—in England, Wales, and Ireland, include those women who have Parliamentary votes, with the omission of University graduates, naval and military electors, and wives whose husbands' Local Government qualification is not the house in which they both reside, and with the addition of women between the ages of twenty-one and thirty, whether married or single, when they are qualified in their own right as occupying owners or tenants, lodgers, or service voters, as described in (1), (2), (3), and (4) above. Women between twenty-one and thirty are not allowed to become Local Government electors on the qualifications of their husbands, nor are women over thirty, unless their husbands' Local Government qualification is the house in which they both reside. Putting it otherwise, in these countries women over thirty qualified in their own right have the Parliamentary and the Local Government vote on the same qualifications as men; wives over thirty of men Local Government voters are electors both for Paliament and for all local governing bodies, except that in the latter case both husband and wife must reside in the premises which qualify; while women between twenty-one and thirty, qualified in their own right, vote on the same terms as men for local governing bodies, but have no Parliamentary vote.

Scottish Local Government Electors.

In Scotland women have *the Parliamentary vote on the same terms as English women*. The Local Government vote—that is, the vote for Town, County, and Parish Councils, and for School Boards—however, is on a slightly different basis. It is the same for men and women, both being able to qualify from the age of twenty-one; while, in addition, the wives over thirty of men Local Government voters are included if they both reside in the premises which qualify the husband as a Local Government voter.

The variations from the basis for women's Parliamentary vote as given in (1), (2), (3), and (4) above, are as follows:—

(a) An owner of land or premises need not also be an occupier.

(b) An owner or occupying tenant while qualified as the occupier of a dwelling house, however low its rental, is not qualified for premises used for other purposes unless the premises or land is of the annual value of £10.

(c) There may be any number of joint owners or tenants provided that the share of annual value of each be not less than £10.

(d) Qualifying lodgings may be taken either furnished or unfurnished but they must be of the annual value of £10 in an unfurnished state.

Postponement of Date for Registration.

The dates given above for the making of claims under the first register are those in the Bill. It is probable, however, under the special arrangements provided for this register, that these dates may be postponed. No woman, however, should postpone her claim unless she has seen an official announcement of the postponement of dates.

The latest information on this question will always be published in The Common Cause, and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1., will be glad to answer enquiries on the subject.

Chrystal Macmillan.

What we may Hope from the Women's Vote.

By Dr. C. W. Saleeby.

It is an honour and a delight to be asked to contribute to The Common Cause an expression of what I think we may hope from the women's vote. Whether my opinion, or anyone's matters now is another question. For the glorious truth is that the vote is won, and won for ever. It is not of the slightest importance to-day who was for the vote or against it on the tenth of January. There are certain natural processes, such as the cosmic dissipation of energy, or the biological development of the individual from the embryonic to the adult state which may be arrested or retarded but are by their inherent nature irreversible. This is one of them. Women are no more going to lose the vote than the race, as a whole, is going back to Pithecanthropus or "Probably Arboreal." None know this better than our late opponents—late in every sense, for to-day they are not merely defeated but extinct. We may laugh at the bloodless quarrels of their shades, as we laugh at an eighteenth century comedy. And we will note, without laughter, their *post-mortem* acknowledgment that the cause of woman suffrage was right—an acknowledgment which is implicit in their admission of irretrievable defeat. No good cause is ever lost; and their cause, they know, is lost for ever.

Yet something may still be learnt, even for our living day, from the records of the dead age when women had not the vote. It is generally recognised that the war—of all improbable causes—has ended the epoch of masculinism and of the horrible, unnatural, inhuman conflict between masculinism and feminism in British politics, because leading and influential men were led by facts of the war to abandon their opposition to the vote and to become its advocates instead. The consideration which clinched and concluded the controversy, as in the leading case of Mr. Asquith, a distinguished representative of male statesmanship, First Minister of the Crown for a longer continuous period than any of his predecessors, was the important, nay, the indispensable national value of women's war-work. Women were not entitled to the vote so long as they were merely making soldiers; their right to it was evident so soon as they began to make shells.

The answer to the question, "What we may hope from women's vote?" is readily deducible from the historic fact, never to be forgotten, and here nakedly noted, that men denied women the vote for making soldiers but gave it them for making shells. Women had long replied to our masculinists, who insisted that society rested upon force—an argument which suddenly disappeared as from August 4th, 1914—with the overwhelming truth that though women do not bear arms, they bear soldiers. The masculinists were unmoved; but when women began to make arms—at whatever cost to motherhood and the future of the race—they were held to have earned the vote. Evidently the conclusion is that the vote will abolish for ever the blasphemous and murderous creed of masculinism, according to which shells are more valuable than soldiers, things than Life.

But do we remember that what we may now call pre-suffrage feminism—which is, of course, as necessarily extinct to-day as the dodo—was often indistinguishable from masculinism, and based its claim upon the fact that women could do what men can do? Of course they can, but their claim to the vote, in my eyes, was the immeasurably higher one that women can do that which men cannot do, and without which men cannot be. If I were a politician writing with the contemptible object of pleasing all the now enfranchised readers of The Common Cause, I should not write thus. Pre-suffrage feminism often did despite to the feminine, and bridled when any man indicated it, even in accents of homage. But surely

all that was a consequence of sex-antagonism, aroused in the fight between masculinism in possession, and feminism thus created to dispossess it. In the dust thus raised we could not see that the woman's cause is man's for the supreme reason that man is born of woman.

The key, the whole and the only key, alike to the physical and the psychical differences between the sexes, is that vastly more of woman than of man is designed for and dedicated to the future. As distinguished from the male in any living race, low or high, vegetable, animal, human, the female is for the future. Rightly considered, this absolute and unchangeable biological truth, which constitutes femaleness, does not diminish the value of woman as an individual, but raises it. For, since all individuals are mortal, she who is Nature's supreme organ and trustee of the future of life, is *ipso facto* more important than he who, himself no less mortal, is less important for the life that is to succeed his own. Hence the conclusion which I have advanced on many platforms, by no means Suffrage platforms only, during the last decade and more, that, if only one sex is to have the vote, that sex should be female.

To-day we live in a new world. What we called feminism and what we should have called masculinism until January 10th, were pre-suffrage phenomena. To-day there is only Humanism, the Common Cause. Let us beware lest the ghosts or fossil remains of those mutually created Frankenstein monsters, now extinct, frighten or impede us living forms to-day. According to humanism, "there is no wealth but life"; no other creed can live henceforth. Sex antagonism, "militancy," "The National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage,"—these things are not merely dead, but should be buried, and must not be exhumed.

The reader agrees. But does she? I am not so sure. If, for instance, it is proposed that women shall experience greater difficulty in obtaining whisky than men, what does enfranchised woman say? I know what unenfranchised woman said, but that, you will remember, was infinitely long ago, in a geological stratum on which we now are walking. If, to-day, I argue that concentrated alcohol is what I call a racial poison, and that, therefore, woman, necessarily including all motherhood, should be specially protected from it simply because she is more valuable in herself and for the future, than man, does enfranchised woman, in this new humanist world of to-day, free from sex-antagonism, question either the premises or the conclusion? And if she does, is she certain that the ghost of pre-suffrage feminism, objecting to any man who had the impudence to lay down the law about what is or is not good for woman, does not walk in her—though indeed it be no less an echo from the dead past than, say, the correspondence between Lord Curzon and Mrs. Humphry Ward in *The Morning Post*?

But the Common Cause being finally won, all the half-truths with which it was often waged and resisted must be forgotten as if they had never been. The feminism of Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, which I believe to be as false a creed as that of any anti-Suffragist, must give place to the humanism of Miss Ellen Key. The voice of woman in the State will neither make revolutionary and "catastrophic" changes, nor yet no change at all—the mutually destructive theories which our opponents, during their mortal lives, used to employ, alternately or simultaneously, with equally ingenuous ingenuity. Biologically, woman is man plus a greater power of serving, and a greater interest in the racial life. Politically, therefore, when the dust of the age which died on the 10th of January is laid under our feet, and when we all see and feel and act as if it had never been, the woman's vote will simply mean that "statesmanship" which counts the making of shells as a claim to citizenship, whereas the making of soldiers is not, will be one with Nineveh and Tyre.

The care of motherhood and infancy, hitherto regarded as a suitable theme for mothers' meetings, but unworthy of the more spacious intellect and vision of man, will be second to nothing henceforth. I do not fear an age of female demagogues—perhaps the most horrible thing our Mother Earth could breed. But I hope and know that the religion of Life, the divinest thing there is, will be served. Happy are the unborn for this day's dawn.

The reader, disgusted, dumbfounded, anything but delighted, may conclude that I advocated and now rejoice in Woman Suffrage because I believe that woman's place is the home. And so I do. The sun will rise in the West, and Nature stand on her head, before Ruskin's noble words about woman as maker of the home lose an iota of their truth. This does not mean that woman is henceforth to be condemned to drudgery. On the contrary, enfranchised women will develop law and social practice so as to serve the home, which is the nest of the Life that is to follow ours, whilst simultaneously liberating herself from its drudgery. For instance, how much of "woman's work" was—nay, is—cleaning and cooking? The remedy, as I have everywhere been urging for at least six months past, in connection with the Ministry of Food, is the communal kitchen, which frees the hands of woman from more cooking than may please her to perform, and by reducing private kitchen fires in number, is the true solution of the smoke problem, which makes most of the need for cleaning our homes.

Elsewhere, also, I have shown that the woman's vote will end such nonsense as the designing of houses for our country by committees exclusively male, to whom a house is naturally a man's possession, in certain parts of which he may find it convenient to accommodate woman. If we are to have houses which women can turn into homes, women must design them; and no other houses will meet the nation's need. If we are to have a population which is healthy and happy and efficient, women must say their say in its creation and education. The million men and more who have been rejected for service in the national forces since 1914 are, for the most part, the products of man's neglect of the only laws by which nations live—the laws of life. But life is woman's child, and she will vote for it accordingly, in the home and out of it, as the real mother voted for her child before Solomon. To take one more instance, the woman's vote will mean that never again, so long as our country endures, shall we witness the spectacle of to-day, the deadly delay in the establishment of a Ministry of Health, such as Lord Rhondda asked for a year ago, though no one dare question his words when he tells us that every week of such delay costs the lives of a thousand infants.

Every noble cause, every moral cause, every progressive cause, is such because, and only because, it serves Life, enriches, enhances, fortifies, intensifies, ennobles life. And now that woman, who as woman is essentially Mother—not least in such supreme instances of Virgin Motherhood as Jeanne d'Arc and Florence Nightingale—is become Queen-Mother of our new world, wherein "all men shall be priests and kings," all women priestesses and queens, every noble and holy cause is reinforced and nearer final victory.

Sidelights on Irish Suffrage.

VII.—HOUSING.

The housing question in Dublin is not new. At the close of the eighteenth century Dublin was one of the largest and most populous cities in the United Kingdom. After the Act of Union, Dublin ceased to be a metropolis for the wealthy, but continued to be a metropolis as regards the poor, and to a large extent has remained so ever since. To quote from an essay by a Dublin clergyman, published in 1805: "A single apartment . . . . is let for one or two shillings a week, and to lighten this rent two, three, or even four families become joint tenants. I have frequently found from ten to fifteen persons of all ages and both sexes in a room not fifteen feet square. . . . In July, 1798, the entire side of a house, four storeys high, fell from its foundations into an adjoining yard, where it destroyed an entire dairy of cows. I ascended the remaining ruin, through the usual approach of shattered stair, stench, and filth. The floor had all sunk on the side now unsupported, forming so many inclined planes, and I observed with astonishment that above thirty of the inhabitants, who had escaped destruction from the wall falling outward, had not deserted their apartments. It remained some months in this situation, and the landlord claimed and actually received for it the usual rent." Who can doubt the march of progress? When the next fall of an inhabited ruinous house took place in 1913, no innocent cows were destroyed and the landlord did not levy rent for the ruins. Otherwise, conditions were much the same.

The Corporation has been invested with powers to destroy and rebuild. For instance, in the last three years more than 2,700 houses have been closed and a considerable number erected. Even with its present powers, the Dublin Corporation could close the house in ——— Court, but would this proceeding solve the housing problem? Is it simply a matter of municipal neglect, or are wider powers necessary to render those already possessed of real advantage? If such an area as ——— Court were cleared, and decent houses built, the rent would be 4s. or 5s. per room, as even before the war the Corporation would have to pay 5 per cent. interest on loans. An important item in the cost of rebuilding is the price of site; in one case this was £36,000, these sites being valued as if in the best part of the city. The Housing Act of 1909, giving compulsory powers of acquiring derelict sites, does not apply to Ireland. The powers of the Corporation with regard to prosecution of landlords of slum dwellings also need extension. These houses are often let on lease to persons who sub-let them

as tenements. To quote Sir Charles Cameron, Chief Medical Officer of Health: "If the owner of the house is in a good position, we can get at him, and make him do the necessary improvements. But if the person who rents the house does not live in it himself, but lets it to other persons, then he gets the rack rent and is liable, but as a rule has no means. The law requires urgent amendment as this is an evil of great magnitude in Dublin." Sir Charles points out further that "nuisances in individual rooms cannot be dealt with under the present law." In general it may be said the law should require that no person should use any house as a tenement house without first applying for permission to the sanitary authority, who would then have the house inspected to ascertain whether or not it were suited for such a purpose, and if any alterations were necessary. It should be remembered that many of the worst tenement buildings were at one time town houses of the well-to-do.

These houses contained magnificent mantelpieces of variegated marble with elaborate carving, and splendid old balusters in oak; but the sanitary accommodation was naturally unsuited to a single-room tenement building. The mantelpieces and balusters were sold for many hundreds to English buyers, but practically nothing was done to render the building suitable for its new purpose, and there does not appear to be any law rendering such alterations compulsory.

Such amendment of the law would enable the Dublin Corporation to demolish the present 1,518 houses "unfit for human habitation, and incapable of being rendered fit for such a purpose," containing 6,831 families, referred to in the Report of the Housing Commission, and replace them by decent buildings. But this again would not solve the problem. To quote the Report further: "The tenants of these houses include some of the work-shy and loafing class, who should more properly be dealt with under a reformed Poor Law system. If large housing responsibilities are to be undertaken by the municipality, such changes should be made in the Poor Law as would admit of this class being separately dealt with."

One effect of present conditions may be traced in the number of public-houses in the slums. A street of fifty-four houses contains six of these. A play depicting life in a tenement house attracted much attention at the Abbey Theatre this winter. One scene showed the district visitor administering good advice to the family in the one-room tenement. She is much shocked at the discovery of a porter bottle. The man demands what else could be expected, with food so hard to get, milk liquid filth, and not a breath of air to breathe. "Sure, the porther's mate and drink too and makes us forget." Drink and poverty react on each other, and the vicious circle is complete. A drastic scheme of housing for Dublin might have done more for the cause of Temperance than all the self-sacrificing efforts of Temperance societies, admirable as these are.

DORA MELLONE.

THE THIRD "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

Thanks to the generous gift this week of £100 from a kind friend who prefers to remain anonymous, our fund has now reached the total of over £350. But another £400 is still needed for our hut, which is to be erected for members of the W.A.A.C. on Salisbury Plain.

The hut is very badly needed, for the camp where the girls are quartered is a long distance from the nearest village, and they have nowhere to go for recreation outside the common-room at their hutments. They are longing for the Y.W.C.A. to put up a hut for them similar to THE COMMON CAUSE Hut that has brought such comfort to members of the W.A.A.C. "somewhere in France," and it is hoped that we shall be able to provide a home-like place for rest and recreation for them by the end of February; but FUNDS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED to enable the work to be carried on at once.

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Law Reform and Women Solicitors.

Last Friday Mr. Samuel Garrett, the President of the Law Society, delivered an address which, in the words of *The Times*, "may prove to be the most important advance towards law reform since the Judicature Commission took the matter seriously in hand more than half a century ago." He spoke with great frankness about the necessity for reconstruction in the legal profession. He said that the members of that profession must face the fact that there was some prejudice or want of confidence towards them on the part of the public.

This is certainly the case, and the want of confidence is not peculiar to this generation, as Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Dickens bear witness. But this generation is less patient of domestic evils than those that have gone before it. So much of our civilisation has to be re-made in the coming years, and it has been found so possible to change things that seemed unchangeable, that no large department of our life is likely to be left to go its own way without some attempt at reconstruction. For that reason, if for no other, it is essential that our oldest and most venerated institutions, such as Parliament, and the ancient Universities and the legal profession should take thought for their own reform before reform is thrust on them from the outside. Parliament—or, at any rate, the House of Commons—has done so, and the Representation of the People Bill now almost ready to be placed on the Statute-book, will give it new life. Mr. Garrett wishes something of the same kind to be done for the law, and he suggested some drastic changes which will have more chance of receiving open-minded consideration now than they would have had in any former time.

There is one reform, however, which has already passed one House of Parliament, and received wide public support, which would, we believe, do more to transform the administration of the law in this country than even the creation of a Ministry of Justice. That reform is the admission of women to the legal profession. Readers of The Common Cause will remember that last February Lord Buckmaster introduced into the House of Lords a Bill to remove the disqualification of women from practising as solicitors. It passed its second reading in the Upper House on February 27th without a division. On March 8th, the Lords read it a third time, and passed it. In April it was introduced into the House of Commons. A memorial in support of it was signed by a number of representative women, including Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Humphry Ward, Miss Jane Harrison, Mrs. Olive Schreiner, Miss Clara Collett, Mrs. Hertha Ayrton, Dr. Garrett Anderson, Miss Susan Lawrence, Miss Margaret Bondfield, and many others. The Government, however, declined to give time for it, as it was a private Bill, and for some months nothing could be done. On August 9th, however, an opportunity occurred for a demonstration in its favour. The occasion was the introduction into the Commons by the Solicitor-General of the Solicitors (Examination) Bill. The object of this measure was to reduce the number of examinations that the Law Society is legally obliged to hold in the year from three to two, and the reason given for the change was the present insufficiency of candidates for the profession. The supporters of the admission of women as solicitors naturally retorted that if the doors were thrown open to women there would be more candidates, and Mr. Holt, Liberal member for Hexham, moved the rejection of the Examination Bill as a protest against the action of the Government in not finding time for the women's Bill. Sir Gordon Hewart then promised to consult his colleagues as to the possibility of doing so, and on that understanding the Examination Bill was read a second time. The time for the women's Bill has not, however, been found, and in reply to a question last week the Government said that it could not be found this session. The only hope for the Bill seems to be that it should be carried over into another session.

At this hour of the day it is hardly necessary to restate the arguments for the opening of the legal profession to women. Everybody now admits them. The Law Society itself has greatly strengthened them by its admission that the profession

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needs reform, and that there is a dearth of suitable candidates for it. The most obvious way of reform is to open the doors wide to the best individuals of either sex, for it is only by lawyers that the practise of law can be reformed. Law deals with the whole of human life, and is as much the province of women as it is of men. The community cannot do without women in this profession any more than it can do without them as doctors; the prejudice that opposes their entry into it is exactly the same as the prejudice which opposed their entry into medicine, and will melt away as that has done. If the Government find means of testing the opinion of the House of Commons on the subject, we have very little doubt that the Women Solicitors Bill will be favourably received there as it was in the Lords. In a few years' time people will be wondering how they ever did without women lawyers, just as many now wonder how they could get on without women doctors: and the vitality of the administration of law will be doubled.

The Abolition of the Poor Law.

By Mrs. Sidney Webb.

Lady Selborne asks us to give up our fond objection to Poor Law Relief and to the Workhouse, and to cease to ask for new forms of provision for Sickness and Motherhood free from "the Taint of Pauperism" (see The Common Cause for January 4th). I hope that she will think better of it. There are more important reasons than she imagines against any extension of the Poor Law services in rivalry with those of the other public authorities, and in favour of systematic co-ordination of our whole provision for Sickness and Infirmity, Motherhood and Infancy.

I cannot attempt to summarise the very weighty reasons that led the Royal Commission on the Poor Law in 1909, after more than three years' exhaustive examination of the subject, *unanimously* to recommend (i.) the abolition of the Boards of Guardians, and of the Union area; (ii.) the abolition of the General Mixed Workhouse, which Louise Michel is said to have found so charming; and (iii.) the transfer of the whole work, under suitable committees, to the Town and County Councils. That Royal Commission was one of exceptional knowledge and authority; it included half-a-dozen men and women of experience as Poor Law Guardians, and as many members of the Charity Organisation Society, whilst it was strengthened by leading officials of the Local Government Board. It is safe to say that not one of its eighteen members began the investigation with any idea that such drastic changes were required. The rival municipal services were practically unrepresented. Yet, when these members had actually made themselves acquainted with the facts of Poor Law Administration all over the Kingdom, they were unanimous in recommending the sweeping away of the existing system, and the adoption of the Town and County Councils as the basis of unification.

Such a drastic conclusion seems, at first sight, to do less than justice to the devoted work done by many Poor Law Guardians, notably by several hundred women Guardians, or to the general efficiency of the Poor Law staff. It seems, too, to ignore the very great improvements which some Boards of Guardians have effected in their institutions for the sick and the children. But the Commission found that, so far as the Poor Law administration was concerned, it could come to no other recommendation than abolition; and public opinion ranged itself very decisively on its side.

Unfortunately, the eighteen members of the Commission failed to agree among themselves as to the particular way in which the duty of providing for the children, the sick and infirm, and the unemployed able-bodied, should be organised under the Town and County Councils. This cleavage led to two Reports; and Mr. Lloyd George presently drew off public attention by his great and complicated scheme of Health Insurance, which neither the Majority nor the Minority had recommended. Since then nothing has been done; and the position has become steadily worse. Lady Selborne is certainly right in saying that we are, as a practical people, guilty in this respect of a great piece of folly. There are now, in most districts, no fewer than twelve distinct authorities or agencies, dispensing Public Assistance out of the same fund of rates and taxes, without necessarily knowing what the other is doing, without any common register of cases, maintaining duplicate institutions, often simultaneously helping the same families without being aware of the fact. The Poor Law is costing us, as a nation, practically no less than it did ten years ago—in the United Kingdom something like seventeen million pounds a year. Yet the number of paupers has sunk to the lowest on record, and the expenditure of all the eleven other authorities has greatly increased. It is urgent to co-ordinate and amalgamate.

Why, then, asks Lady Selborne, should we not forget about "the taint of pauperism," and go in for a great development of Poor Law Relief, so as to provide all that is now seen to be necessary for maternity and infancy, for nursing and medical treatment of the sick, for hospitals and convalescent homes, for "mothers' pensions" and "children's clinics"—all under the Poor Law?

The answer is, first, that public opinion, rightly or wrongly, will not stand it. Let anyone suggest that the disabled soldiers, or the discharged men after demobilisation, shall be left to Poor Relief! Let anyone propose that school clinics, or nursing homes, or mothers' pensions should be made subject to the Poor Law Guardians! It simply cannot be done. And there is a very important reason why the public instinct is right. The Poor Law can hardly ever deal with a case in time; it can seldom continue its treatment for so long as the case requires. The very essence of the Poor Law system, the central pivot on which it works, is that its operation is confined to the relief of destitution. We may relax the meaning of destitution; we may, by stretching the law, deal with anyone who is very poor; but it remains, and must for ever remain, true that the provision made by the Poor Law Authorities is made for a special class only; that no one can be dealt with until he has sunk down to that degree of poverty; and that what is being done for him must cease the very day he rises to anything better. Now, public provision out of the rates and taxes is made, alike in matters of education, public health, unemployment, old age, maternity and infancy, for the citizens at large, as early as it is needed, and for so long as it is needed, whether they are rich or poor. Hence there is, and so long as the Poor Law exists, must be, an extensive duplication of institutional and domiciliary treatment. One set of people are getting public aid because they need education or medical treatment, whatever their pecuniary circumstances. Another set of people are getting the same sort of aid because they are very poor, whatever their special needs.

The case for radical reform has, in fact, become so overwhelming that even the Local Government Board has been converted.

The Report of the Local Government Committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction, published last week, shows a consensus of official opinion that the only way to put an end to this calamitous and wasteful duplication is to abolish not only the Boards of Guardians and the Workhouses, but the very Poor Law itself. This Committee, which includes representatives of the Majority and Minority of the late Royal Commission, and representatives of the Local Government Board, and the other Departments concerned, has worked out a scheme on the lines of the Royal Commission Report for the transfer of all the functions of the Poor Law Guardians to the several Committees of the Town and County Councils—the whole of the public provision for children of school age to be made under the Education Acts by the Education Committee; the whole of that for the sick and infirm, including maternity, infancy, and helpless old age, to be made under the Public Health Acts by the Public Health Committee; the whole of that for persons of unsound mind, whether or not certified as such, to be made under the Lunacy and Mental Deficiency Acts by the Asylums Committee; the whole of that for the Unemployed Able-bodied by a new Committee with powers in substitution for those of the Unemployed Workmen Act; whilst "home assistance" in cash will be granted by another new Committee, having itself no institutions at all, but with new powers of granting money-help to families under its supervision, and concentrating in its own hands all the enquiries and all the money payments and recoveries. The whole Poor Law would be repealed; the workhouse as an institution would cease to exist; the existing Poor Law buildings would be at the disposal of the Public Health and other Committees of the Town and County Councils for allocation and adaptation to their several specialised purposes. The County Council of Hertfordshire, for instance, would be able to work out its own adequate scheme for providing that County with maternity centres, infant welfare work, residential schools, the various kinds of hospitals and old people's homes, and any necessary provision for the unemployed—all without any question of pauperism, or any distinction between one citizen and another. Perhaps this will be published as an official report, and adopted by the War Cabinet, before this article appears.

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Donations in aid of the general relief work of the Society, or in payment of goods, may be sent to E. WRIGHT BROOKS, Esq., Hon. Treasurer, "Friends of Armenia," 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "London County & Westminster Bank."

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Surgical Dressings and Instruments.

British Made Hot-Water Bottles

Best Quality Rubber.

Size	Price	Covers
10 × 6	3/9	1/-
12 × 6	4/3	1/2
12 × 8	5/-	1/4

Water Beds, Air Cushions and Invalid Appliances on Hire, and sold on the Hire Purchase System.

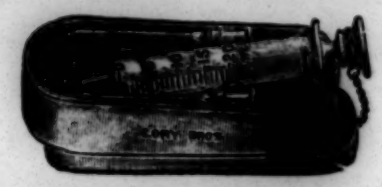

Fig. 1253.—Special Hypodermic Syringe with Safety Chain, in N.P. Case, 2 needles. Complete All-glass or All-metal, 4/6 each.

Manufacturers of Hospital and Invalid Furniture, Trusses, Belts, Elastic Stockings, &c.

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The Lancet, Dec. 16th, 1916.

MADE BY CADBURY.

Business Women and Teachers.

In the series of discussions in THE COMMON CAUSE on the elementary school teacher there is a remark to the effect that the advice of an experienced teacher to a candidate would appear to be "Don't enter the profession."

At the risk of seeming irrelevance I should like to bring to the notice of COMMON CAUSE readers one or two points in a business woman's career : for, in spite of the ever-widening circle of occupations for women, the choice still largely lies between teaching or business. And at the present moment there is still further connection between the two—that many trained teachers are deserting the school for the office. With the absence of the younger business men at the Front, there is a big demand for women of good education above the type of girl who leaves school at fifteen and after a very short term at some commercial college enters the business world as a "smart girl" or "intelligent junior." How does the office life compare with the teacher's life?

To start with the financial outlook, the average salary of a woman clerk, book-keeper, or stenographer is anything from £80 to £130. Out of this must come travelling expenses, lunches, and clothes, as well as lodging. The travelling expenses alone are a serious item. Most business houses being found in a more or less restricted and non-residential area, practically every worker has a long 'bus or train journey—often both—to the office. Then several hours of concentrated work demand that the worker shall keep the body well nourished : and though there is some excuse for the popular taunt thrown at women that they prefer a cup of tea and a bun and butter to a good meal that would better fit them for the day's duties (since this really is the staple lunch of a great many), it is generally a question of means rather than of preference. No amount of calculation will make sixpence go the length of a shilling. Indeed, in these times, one can reverse the sums and still be calculating.

With regard to clothes, though it is often true that an undue proportion of the salary goes in frocks and hats, especially in the case of girls who are merely working for a good dress allowance, it is also true that business men expect their clerks to look well, and, maybe unconsciously, but none the less markedly, they place their confidence in a simply but well dressed woman ; and simple clothes are good clothes.

All this outlay considered, there still remains lodging. It is quite possibly a fact that the business girl is more often able to live at home than the young teacher, but generally she makes a contribution to household expenses, and financially is little better off than if she were in lodgings. I say financially, for undoubtedly the congenial atmosphere of home life is a great factor in her well-being.

The elementary school teacher, after five or six hours in charge of a class of fifty children, is said to be too tired to care much for amusement or recreation during the time that remains to her. What then must be said of the clerk who works at high pressure for eight hours a day—and it is rarely less—on a task that must be finished in the time, with the knowledge always at the back of her mind that should her work show signs of slackness she is laying herself open to severe reprimand or even dismissal? And let me say in passing that business men do not consider courtesy to their employees one of the cardinal virtues. Instead, also, of several breaks, each of at least a week's duration, there is only one of a fortnight during the course of the year.

Taking all these things into consideration, those women who have given up teaching with the idea that life in an office offers more scope or opportunity must be at first, I think, a little disappointed. In the school-room their work has been more or less their own. However hampered by classes too large for one to deal with, they must find response to their efforts in at least a few of their pupils, and thereby a degree of satisfaction to their sense of creation. But in office work, until positions of real initiative and responsibility have been reached, there is always the feeling of being a mere cog in the machinery of labour that has neither beginning nor end in the labourer's individual effort.

One of the main drawbacks to the elementary teacher's existence seems to be, according to several writers, lack of opportunity for social enjoyment. The idea leads one to ask whether the business worker of equal education and standing is any better off. For those who live at home there is the home circle of friends, and although this may suffice it cannot be said to be always a very wide one. Office women's opportunities for meeting fresh people and ideas outside the home are not as plenteous as may be imagined. Business people do not, as a rule, believe in bringing their private lives into touch with

their working lives; heads of departments rarely know, or desire to know, anything of the existence outside the office of their juniors, and it is not an unknown occurrence for two workers to sit at the same desk for several years before they discover that they have at one time or another been to the same school.

Office life, therefore, weighed in the balance against teaching life would not seem to tip the scales very heavily. And those who would change the latter for the former would do well to remember this, though I must confess that the one-time teachers to whom I have spoken have no hesitation in saying that they would not go back to teaching.

M. ANGELL LANE.

The Labour Conference at Nottingham.

The Conference of the Labour Party held at Nottingham last week promised to be one of very far-reaching importance to women, for under the new constitution to be presented by the Executive of the Party, it was proposed to admit women on equality, or, as one woman expressed it, "more than equality," with men. The consideration of this constitution has been "referred back" to the branches (for one month only), but from the speeches made last week, and from the views expressed in conversation with delegates and "leaders," there is no doubt of the attitude of Labour to newly enfranchised womanhood—it is an attitude of equal and fearless comradeship, of generous welcome, and of great hope that women, not only of one class, but of all classes, are going to bring to the ideals for which Labour stands a great inspiration born of imagination, of courage, and of special experience, and of a desire to serve.

It is significant that the only point in the new constitution to which serious exception was taken by the women was the suggestion that women members of the party should pay only half the amount of the annual subscription required from the men members. The women strongly opposed this, demanding absolute equality, and remarking, "We must pay for our politics if we want them clean."

A specially interesting feature of the Conference this year was the presence of the twenty delegates of the National Federation of Women Workers. This great industrial organisation took a ballot of its members as soon as their possession of a Parliamentary vote became imminent, on the advisability of the Union taking political action: 15,000 members voted for, and only 500 against this, and in spite of the difficult conditions under which the women were working at the time (long hours, food shortage, and, in London, air-raids), the percentage voting was greater than in the men's unions. The women delegates of both this and the other organisations which sent women representatives, spoke on subjects ranging from Peace and the Food Supply to constitutional questions (both political and industrial), and added much of both wisdom and wit to the debates.

The Women's Labour League was in Nottingham before the men's organisations arrived, and held very interesting and exceedingly "alive" conferences on January 21st and 22nd. After an inspiring and hopeful address from Mrs. Lowe, who presided, speeches were made by Miss Mary Macarthur, reporting the great progress made by women during the past year in industrial organisation; by Mrs. Reeves, of the Women's International Council of Socialist and Labour organisations, who made an eloquent appeal for peace and for better international relations in the future; and by Mrs. Booth, who brought the greetings of the Women's Co-operative Guild. These were followed by many excellent and pointed speeches from the delegates on the various subjects on the agenda. Resolutions were passed on the position of the Labour League in the newly constituted Labour Party, on Peace, the Food Supply, Housing, a Ministry of Health, and the treatment of Conscientious Objectors.

This was the last Conference of the League under its original constitution, as under the new *régime* it will become the nucleus for the local "women's sections" of the Labour Party. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald was therefore asked by the delegates to speak to them, in memory of the foundation of the League by Margaret Macdonald and Mary Middleton over twelve years ago. It was felt that the wish of these courageous and deeply loved leaders of working-class women would be realised if, in accepting the invitation of the Labour Party, the women, far from losing their own identity, brought to politics their great store of experience and human feeling, and determined to use these both to widen and to raise the standard of Labour as a whole.

M. CHETTLE.

Reviews.

CITIZENSHIP, an Introductory Handbook. By M. Cecile Matheson, Student Christian Movement. (Price 1s. 9d.)

In her introductory handbook on citizenship Miss Matheson deals briefly and efficiently with the main problems of internal government, grouped under the headings of poor law, housing, education, public health, and the drink problem. In connection with this grouping, we venture to raise a mild protest against Miss Matheson's action in allowing to this last subject seventeen pages in a book of 136 pages, as compared with sixteen devoted to housing and fifteen to public health. The main point, however, at which we are tempted to direct adverse criticism is connected with Miss Matheson's treatment of "Poverty and the Distribution of Wealth" in Chapter 2. Here she attacks her subject in such a way as to ignore the fact that one of the most vital and fundamental problems of citizenship is the possibility or impossibility of replacing the "concentration of capital in the hands of a few great holders" by a transference of capital ownership to the State or to organised producers. It is the result of using the word capital to connote not merely the instruments of production but the group of private persons who happen at the present time to possess them, and this in its turn is the result of juggling with such words as labour and capital without first attempting to define them. The fact that this is an everyday practise of our daily press does not excuse its adoption in an otherwise open-minded exposition of the duties and possibilities of citizenship.

"Citizenship" is, as its introduction points out, "primarily intended for use as a Study Circle text book," accordingly a short bibliography is appended to each chapter and the book concludes with a series of suggested questions for discussion.

THE ICONOCLAST. By Helen Hamilton. (1s.) Miss Hamilton's gift is undoubtedly the gift of drawing types, not characters. To those who read and appreciated the somewhat terrible, altogether convincing cleverness of the "Compleat Schoolmarm," the "Iconoclast" must come as something of a disappointment. The "Compleat Schoolmarm" was admittedly the sketch of a type, drawn with the unsparing candour of the detached critic. The "Iconoclast" professes to be concerned with people, but its characters have no kinship with flesh and blood. They are purely caricatures. As such they are amusing enough, and would be more so were they in surroundings consistently suitable. But the problems with which they are concerned are problems of flesh and blood, and the truth of the action detracts from the unreality of the actors. Undoubtedly, the best parts of the book are those which find Dickey in the schoolroom, in the mistresses' common-room, or in her flat with her friend. There, with merciless realism, Miss Hamilton has recreated the atmosphere of the "Compleat Schoolmarm," and the effect is no less arresting, no less convincing, no less masterly in prose than we found it before in verse.

THE PUPPET SHOW. By Lilian Harrison. (John Richmond. 6s. net.)

A story of the conventional triangle—two women and a man this time—in which the superfluous woman pays with her life for her flighty behaviour, and a sedate and well-matched couple are dismissed to domestic felicity.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies

IN CO-OPERATION WITH 16 SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES

WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS' CELEBRATION

QUEEN'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE

(Sole Lessees—Messrs. CHAPPELL & Co.)

Thursday, February 21st

At 8 p.m.

To Welcome the Extension of the Franchise to Women

Chairman: Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Speakers and Music.

Names will be announced later.

Price of Seats: £1 1s., 10/6, 5/-, 2/6 and 1/-

GREATER PART OF BALCONY AND AREA, FREE.

Apply to the Ticket Secretary, N.U.W.S.S.,

62, OXFORD STREET, W. 1.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss Violet Eustace.
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.
Secretary (pro. tem.):
Miss Gladys Davidson.

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, West Cent., London.

Women Suffrage Societies' Joint Celebration.

The N.U.W.S.S., with the co-operation of other Women Suffrage Societies, have decided to hold a Joint Celebration to welcome the extension of the franchise to women at the Queen's Hall on Thursday, February 21st, at 8 o'clock.

Apart from the speakers who will address the meeting, arrangements will, it is hoped, be made for orchestral and choral music. Readers will, we feel sure, feel the appropriateness of giving expression in music to their satisfaction at the passing of the Women's Suffrage Bill.

There will be a large number of Free Seats in the Balcony and Area, but these will not be reserved or numbered. The prices of the seats are as follows: Front Stalls and front row of the Grand Circle, one guinea; other rows, according to position, 10s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d.; and the first two rows of the Balcony, numbered and reserved, will be 1s.

Literature Department.

A new leaflet on the formation of Women Citizens' Associations has been issued this week. It sets forth the objects of such an organisation, who are eligible as members, how they are organised, and the subjects to be discussed. The price per hundred is 1s. 9d.; postage, 2½d.

The leaflet, "The New Privilege of Citizenship," has been reprinted, and may be had for 2s. 9d. per 100; postage, 2½d.

The 1917 Franchise Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1917 ...	1,111	2	4
Berkhamsted W.S.S.	2	8	0
Miss F. T. How		10	6
Wolverton W.S.S.	1	10	0
Godalming W.S.S.		3	6
Bath W.S.S.	11	1	0
Mr. Harry R. Lewis		10	6
Preston W.S.S.	2	0	0
	£1,129	5	10

The acknowledgment appearing in the issue of January 18th of a donation of £30 12s. to the 1917 Franchise Fund from the Eastern Counties Federation should have been inserted as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Hitchin, Stevenage and District W.S.S., per Eastern Counties Federation	20	0	0
Norwich W.S.S., per Eastern Counties Federation		12	0
Mrs. Rackham, per Eastern Counties Federation	10	0	0
	£30	12	0

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1917	44	12	9
Received from January 14th to 26th, 1918:—			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Miss Meade-King, 1917 and 1918	1	0	0
Mrs. L. Matheson		5	0
Miss Dalby	1	0	0
Mr. R. F. Cholmeley	1	1	0
Mrs. Overton		10	0
Miss Grace Hartley		2	6
Mrs. A. S. Dixon	1	1	0
Miss I. O. Ford	2	0	0
Mrs. Heitland	2	2	0
Mrs. Snow		2	0
Miss M. Clodd		5	0
Sir Thomas Barlow	1	1	0
Miss Edith Neville	1	1	0
Mrs. H. Enfield Dowson ...	3	3	0
Miss E. M. C. Druce	1	1	0
Capt. and Mrs. Corbett Fisher		5	0
Miss Hazel Blandy		1	0
Mrs. J. P. Thomasson	10	0	0
The Misses Stirling		2	6
Miss Dillwyn	1	0	0
Mrs. Bertram		2	0
Miss Kitty F. Jones		5	0
Miss L. C. Eden		15	0
Miss S. K. S. Mair	2	2	0
Miss F. T. How	1	1	0
Mr. H. M. Atkinson		10	0
Mrs. Bermon	2	2	0
Miss J. M. Beath		10	6
Dr. Jane Walker	2	2	0
Mrs. Powel		5	0
Miss Beatrice Paine		2	6
Miss Grace Mitchell		5	0
Miss Warmington		10	0
Miss Teasdel		1	0
The Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton	1	0	0
Miss Alicia A. Leith	1	0	0
Mrs. Luff	1	1	0
Miss B. R. Bruce	1	1	0
Miss Margaret Scriven		1	0
Miss Dorothy Paine		5	0
Miss J. Marett		5	0
Mrs. Edith M. Hinchley ...		2	6
Mrs. Shillington		10	0
Mrs. James Ward	1	0	0
Mrs. Lucy Hall		2	6
Mrs. Buxton		1	0
Mrs. Allan Bright	1	1	0
Miss J. S. Chambers		10	6
Mrs. Satterthwaite		1	0
Miss A. French	1	1	0
AFFILIATION FEES			
Kingston and Surbiton W.S.S.	1	0	0
Littlehampton W.S.S.		7	6
Goole W.S.S.		9	0
Harrogate W.S.S., 1917 and 1918		10	0
Huddersfield W.S.S.	2	11	0
Great Yarmouth W.S.S.		5	0
Hitchin, Stevenage, and District W.S.S.	2	1	0
Shanklin W.S.S.		9	6
Rotherfield and Mark Cross W.S.S.		5	0
Godalming W.S.S.		5	0
Hereford W.S.S.		15	0
Seaforth W.S.S.		12	6
Camberley W.S.S.		14	0
London Society for W.S. ...	30	19	9
Dundee W.S.S.	2	19	3
Sunderland W.S.S.	2	6	3
King's Sutton W.S.S.		7	6
Deal and Walmer W.S.S. ...		5	0
Darlington W.S.S.	2	10	0
Pangbourne W.S.S.		15	0
	£141	18	6

Postal Orders should be crossed and filled in N.U.W.S.S. Treasury Notes should be treated like coins and always registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

Please address letters containing money to the Secretary or to Mrs. Auerbach, or Miss Sterling, by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

Correspondence.

[*Letters for publication should be received not later than Monday.*]

THE DANGEROUS POSITION OF BRITISH NURSES.

Madam,—Allow me to draw the attention of your readers to the dangerous position in which a large body of women workers are being placed.

It is now practically universally recognised that the nursing profession requires State Registration to save it from chaos and the public from injury. Public opinion on the subject was formed by the patient years of spade-work of certain nurses' societies and individuals who united in the Central Committee for State Registration in 1910 to promote an agreed Bill. This Bill has been redrafted and brought up to date. It provides for the representation of the various organised societies on the Preliminary Council and a Permanent Council formed on the lines of the British Medical Council, on which a certain number of seats are allocated to nurses and which will be independent of any other one society.

The College of Nursing, Ltd., a company the hon. officers of which are men and employers, and whose Council has been nominated by laymen, is also promoting a Bill.

A prolonged endeavour was made by the Central Committee to come to an agreement with the College for a conjoint Bill; but when the College persistently refused to grant representation to the nurses' societies on the Preliminary Council under the Bill negotiations naturally broke down. The Royal British Nurses' Association has also not found it possible to co-operate with the College.

The College Bill provides for a nominated First Council not representative of any outside body at all and on which the College is free, for instance, to place a number of chairmen of hospital boards, and a permanent Council of which not one member need be a nurse, and which will not be an independent but practically a College Council. In other words, the disciplinary power over the profession will be under the influence of a single society which its promoters themselves have stated to be "based on the training schools," namely, on bodies of employers.

Annuities for disabled nurses and an endowment fund for the College are being raised by a philanthropic society appealing to the public for charity by means of advertisements on a large scale. These appeals are so framed as to touch the feelings of those who have relatives at the Front and who do not generally realise that in responding to the appeal they are supporting an organisation which is strongly disapproved of by a large section of the nursing profession. The Annuity Fund which is being begged for from the charitable for the benefit of the "nation's nurses" is moreover to be administered by a committee consisting only of representatives of the College and of the philanthropic society of lay persons concerned. The danger will be apparent to those of your readers who have studied economic questions.

We have, therefore, in the Central Committee's Bill guarantees for the recognition of the workers' societies and for democratic control and freedom. By the College organisation and Bill we are, on the other hand, threatened with an autocratic control by men and other employers, on whom nurses are economically dependent, and the consequent annihilation of our aspirations towards independent thought and progress.

We earnestly ask that the women who have struggled for and won political enfranchisement should help their sisters who at this time are tied and bound by the nature of their arduous work for the nation, to free themselves from the disastrous trammels of unfair economic dependence. The nurse's knowledge of life and of health conditions in all sections of the community will be of incalculable value when once she is free to use her knowledge and her influence in the right direction.

E. L. C. Eden.

Hon. Secretary, National Union of Trained Nurses.

THE SWING OF THE PENDULUM.

Madam,—Does a legislator's opposition to Woman Suffrage depend on his knowledge of the women he has been acquainted with? When the Lords are "implored" not to hand over the government of men to a "willing to be conscribed by female vote?" does the unprejudiced historian not retort aptly: "Have not women since the days of Eden been exclusively *man-governed*, and have not, by English law, her man-bearing powers been conscripted or 'conscribed' by man?".

Why not try the *revers de la médaille*? The pendulum swinging the other way will find its true mean position in the end.

Women will not bring about a millennium but justice must be done, and the humiliation before her own children and her inferiors who have the vote must be removed. A spirit of co-operation is sure to follow, if justice is done on either side.

Of course, remembering the voting done in the House when whipping was to be re-introduced for certain offences in connection with prostitution, can one not have reason to rejoice that such questions can now be decided on by women as well, for they are most deeply concerned?

Now a wage may be introduced for women and girls sufficient to keep body and soul together, and the ever-open trap of prostitution be no longer the sure and inevitable menace.

The "demand" will always be there as long as mothers do not aid in the moral education of their sons; may we hope that the "supply" with women's help grow less and less accessible.

J. M.

48 Generals and 10 Admirals!

Impressive Facts about "Pelmanism."

The remarkable extent to which the new movement—Pelmanism—is being adopted by officers and men affords impressive reading.

There could, indeed, be no finer or more convincing evidence of its intensely *practical* value than the fact that over 15,000 British officers and men (Naval and Military) are studying it whilst on active service. This includes forty-eight Generals and ten Admirals! All correspondence being confidential, no names can, of course, be published.

From time to time the announcements made by the Pelman Institute have included some of the more interesting letters from officers at the Front or with the Grand Fleet, giving more or less precise particulars of the direct benefits accruing to them from the adoption of Pelman principles. Promotion, distinction, increased efficiency, a keener zest for work: self-confidence, individuality, judgment, decision: a perfect memory (most valuable of qualities in this super-scientific war), concentration—these are some of the benefits daily recorded. Small wonder that a distinguished General writes that "the value of the Pelman Course can hardly be exaggerated." His letter, with others of special interest, will be found below.

Business and professional men are equally appreciative. The benefits of Pelmanism are so clearly apparent (and so invariable) that scepticism and prejudice have vanished. The facts recorded by *students of the Course themselves*, dispose of all doubt or question as to the value of "Pelmanism."

If there is a reader of THE COMMON CAUSE who has not yet received a copy of *Mind and Memory*, in which the principles of Pelmanism are explained at length, and in which a synopsis of the Course is given, he (or she) should write for this *brochure* to-day. It will be sent, *gratis and post free*, together with a full reprint of *Truth's* outspoken report on the work of the Pelman Institute, upon application to the address given at the foot of this page.

A Distinguished General's Verdict.

One of the most emphatic endorsements that the Pelman Course has ever received comes from a distinguished General with the B.E.F. He says:—

"The value of the Pelman Course can hardly be exaggerated. I agree it should be nationalized."

Following upon the remarkable letters recently published in which Colonels, Majors, and Captains (both Army and Navy) have attributed their promotion, *and, in some cases, their distinctions*, to Pelmanism, the General's pronouncement is of special significance.

For the benefit of those readers of THE COMMON CAUSE who have not already seen the letters referred to, they are reprinted here.

"The Unsoldierlike Sub."

The first is from a Captain with the B.E.F. We give his letter in its entirety:—

"I should like to call your attention to the facts of the story of my Pelman Course.

"When I began I was looked upon with disfavour by the C.O. of my battalion at home as being a sleepy, forgetful, and unsoldierlike sub. When I began your Course my star began to rise—I had the ability, but had not been able to use it. I left the Home battalion with the C.O.'s recommendation as being the best officer he had had for more than a year, and came to France.

"I was then appointed as a second-lieutenant to command a company over the heads of four men with two 'pips,' and have now three stars and a M.C.

"That I was able to make use of my abilities so successfully I attribute entirely to the Pelman System."

Another Officer suggests that the announcements made by the Pelman Institute err on the side of modesty. He writes:—

"One great point in favour of your system which, if I may say so, you do not make enough of in your advertisements, is the cumulative benefit accruing.

"As far as I can see, once having got on the right track and rigidly following the System, there should be no limit to the ultimate mental capacity obtained."

Each letter supplies its own adequate comment. Take the epistle of a Lieutenant-Colonel, who, writing from Salonika, says:—

"As a direct consequence of Lesson Two I have got a step in rank."

There is, in fact, a bewildering mass of direct personal testimony to the value of the Course from every rank and from every unit of the British Army and Navy.

It is not always promotion that is the object of those who take up the Pelman Course. Here is a letter which presents another phase:—

"The Course has prevented me becoming slack and stagnating during my Army life—this is a most virulent danger, I may add. It inculcates a clear, thorough, courageous method of playing the game of Life—admirably suited to the English temperament, and should prove *moral* salvation to many a business man. 'Success,' too, would follow—but I consider this as secondary."

A Business Woman's Experience.

Those who have studied Pelmanism are invariably enthusiastic in their praise of it. A London business woman, for example, writes: "I cannot speak too highly of Pelmanism, which is teaching me to use my abilities, and is giving me a confidence I never hoped to have. Previous to taking up the Course my salary was £125—it has now been raised to £250."

"Even as a purely intellectual pleasure," writes another woman, "it is most fascinating and well repays the outlay."

Previous announcements in these columns have included letters from business and professional men and women who have *doubled* and *trebled* their incomes by the adoption of Pelmanism.

Easily Followed by Post.

To the uninitiated it may well appear impossible that such remarkable results can be obtained in a short time as a consequence of half-an-hour a day for a few weeks spent in studying lessons. Yet it is the bare truth, and it should help readers to realise what a tremendous force for personal betterment "Pelmanism" is.

As a reader of the Course recently wrote: "If people only knew, the doors of the Pelman Institute would be literally besieged by eager applicants."

Following the intensely interesting lessons and exercises the students of Pelmanism rapidly develop a brilliant memory, strong Will Power, complete power of Concentration, quick Decision, sound Judgment, an ability to reason clearly, to Converse attractively, to Organise and Manage, and to conduct their work and social duties with Tact. Courage, Self-Confidence, and Success. All mental weaknesses and defects are on the other hand eliminated—such as Mind Wandering, Forgetfulness, Weak Will, Aimlessness, Bashfulness, Self-consciousness, the "Worry Habit," &c.

"Truth's" Verdict.

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THE TAINT OF PAUPERISM.

MADAM,—In view of the amendment to the Representation of the People Bill moved by the Earl of Camperdown and passed by the House of Lords on January 16th, does the Countess of Selborne adhere to her statement that "Quite a small amount of pressure applied to point after point of the Poor Law . . . would be sufficient to bring about a change," *e.g.*, to remove the "taint of pauperism"? Your readers will probably have noted that the Press reports "The Earl of Camperdown moved an amendment to Clause 8 excluding from the Local Government franchise anyone who had received poor law relief or other alms, or who was responsible for some person who had received such relief. He pointed out that such a voter would be called on to vote at Boards of Guardians' elections for those to whom he might have to apply for poor law relief. After discussion, the Earl of Camperdown pressed his amendment, which was carried."

MAY M. HOOPER.

THE ENDOWMENT OF MOTHERHOOD.

MADAM,—In the letter of Miss M. A. R. Tuker there is one expression which struck me very much. It is this: "the ubiquitous house of ill-fame." It seemed to me that the houses of those married pairs who disregard the natural end of the physical pleasure allowed in marriage, by avoiding the resulting conception of a child, bear a hideous resemblance to those houses of ill-fame. Such married persons lower their position to that of the men and women who seek merely their own pleasure. Surely there can be but one lawful way of avoiding conception—that of agreeing together to live celibate lives—as pointed out by your correspondent M. O'M. in her brave letter—the way of self-control. The attractions of married life are undoubtedly legitimate, but they are in the nature of a reward for the acceptance of the duties and pains of paternity and maternity. Rational beings have the union of souls and minds, as well as that of bodies, and the joys of the one may well compensate for the withdrawal temporarily of the other. I am for the moment accepting the view that such abstention may be necessary; but there are other considerations with regard to the avoidance of large families which require an immense amount of consideration. For instance, educational legislation and factory legislation by which children continue a burden on their parents up to an age when, years ago, they were allowed to contribute to their own support. Also with regard to the housing difficulties. But all these we believe may be overcome by improved social legislation in the future. In regard to the housing problem, a step in the right direction has already been taken by the Finance Act, which grants some remission of Income-tax in proportion to the number of children in a family. There seems no doubt that as parents discharge a duty to the community in reproducing it, so the community has an obligation, not only to the very poor parent, but also to the parent of limited means who has a large family. Whether this obligation can best be discharged by the endowment of motherhood, or some other means, remains to be decided, and with the increased political power of women we may trust that it will be decided wisely.

ISABEL WILLIS,
Hon. Press Secretary, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

THE SHORTAGE OF MILK.

MADAM,—Having read the article on the "Shortage of Milk" in THE COMMON CAUSE of January 4th, I should like to enquire if the writer of the said article can prove that milch cows are being slaughtered only because of the price paid for meat. Is there not a second and strong reason that with so much land being ploughed up there is not enough pasture land for the dairy cows? I think if the writer looks up the text of agriculture for the last fifty years or more it will be noted that much corn prevents much dairying and *vice versa*. Selling milk has been very profitable, for, in spite of much discouragement by our sapient Government in the way of licences, inspection, the tuberculosis scare, &c., the sale has been persevered in. The farmers may have given up the struggle now either through the want of pasturage or high prices, but it seems a little unreasonable to complain when for long enough everything was done to prevent dairying. There is also another theory, if our people are expected to do hard work I believe they must eat meat. Non-meat-eating nations have not the same stamina, and more is being required of the nation now. I have been a vegetarian for years, and I can say emphatically I would never encourage anyone to go and do likewise. Other foods may be as nourishing but they want more expensive cooking in time, fuel, &c.

C. L. CURREY.

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*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (81st con.)	2	6	2
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*King's Sutton Suffrage Soc., per Mrs. Browne...	3	7	7
Templand School Book Fund, part proceeds of Concert and Dance, per David Paterson, Esq.	4	0	0
Mrs. White (Serbians)	1	0	0
*Brighton and Hove W.S.S., per Miss M. E. Verrall, Hon. Treas. Surrey, Sussex and Hants Fed., to continue "Brighton and Hove W.S.S." bed, Salonica	1	12	0
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Dr. Lilias Maclay	10	0	0
Miss W. Jardine Dobie		2	6
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*Alex Cupples, Esq.	2	0	0
*Per Miss Isabelle Kerr, Local Hon. Sec. S.W.H., Greenock: 18th instal. from Waste-paper and Waste Material Scheme in Greenock	100	0	0
*A Weekly Collection from Boys and Masters of Glasgow Academy, per E. Temple, Esq., Headmaster	3	10	6
*Anonymous, per Miss Florence L. Jenkinson, Hon. Treas. Newcastle and Stove W.S.S.	1	0	0
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What Some of our Societies are Doing.

ASCOT.—A meeting open to all members of this Society will be held at Ascot Wood Cottage, by kind invitation of Margaret, Ranee of Sarawak, on February 4th, at 2.30, to consider the future of the Society. The President, Mrs. Robie Uniacke will give an address. It is hoped that members will make a point of being present.

RICHMOND.—At the Annual Meeting of the Richmond Women's Suffrage Society, held on January 25th, Lady Aberconway gave a most interesting address on "The Woman Voter, her Position and Interests," to a large and appreciative audience. Lady Nott-Bower, chairman of the Richmond Society, took the place of Lady Frances Balfour, who was prevented from presiding. After alluding to the recent victory achieved by women in obtaining the vote, the chairman went on to warn her audience of its added responsibilities. She hoped that the women would maintain their work and suggested that the Richmond Suffrage Society should become the "Citizen's Association." She was in favour of admitting men to work alongside of women, and moved the following resolution :—

"That a general conference be called of all societies interested in women's citizenship with a view to their co-operation, and, if possible, incorporation in one large national society, with sectional committees formed from existing societies, to deal with the work of which each had special knowledge."

This was seconded by Mrs. Stewart and adopted. Lady Ysearl spoke as to the excellent work done by the Woman Police Officer of Richmond and mentioned that it was hoped to raise funds to provide her with assistants. Mrs. Bailey, the Hon. Secretary, read the report and presented the balance sheet, and after a short discussion the meeting closed.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

FEBRUARY 2.

Cambridge—Members' Meeting. Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association, 20, Green Street —To consider Agenda of the Annual Council Meeting. 3 p.m.

FEBRUARY 6.

Horeham Road, Sussex—Women's Institute—speaker: Miss Phyllis Anderson—Subject: "Citizenship of Women"; and "The Representation of the People Bill." 2.30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 15.

Clapham—Women's Liberal Association—Speaker: Miss Helen Downs—Subject: "Women's New Opportunities." 3 p.m.

LONDON UNITS, S.W.H. (N.U.W.S.S.).

FEBRUARY 12th.—Mrs. Percy Bigland, "At Home," 29, Tite Street, Chelsea—The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield will speak of her experiences with the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Roumanian Retreat, at 5 p.m.; Wartime Tea, 4.30. Cards may be obtained from Miss Curwen, S.W.H., 66, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Coming Events.

A Conference, arranged by the Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, on "The Message of the Church in the Present World Crisis," will be held in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street (entrance in Plum Tree Court), on Tuesday, February 5th, at 6.30. Speakers: Mrs. Strickland (Chair), Lady Balfour, Rev. Dr. Orchard, M.A., Dr. Robert F. Horton, M.A.

The next production by the Pioneer Players, "The Girl and the Puppet," is postponed until Sunday, February 17th, as Miss Teddie Gerard, feeling the strain of her heavy work in "Cheep," has been obliged to give up her part in the Pioneers' production.

Items of Interest.

The Local Government Board have issued a Memorandum (price 6d.) for the use of Local Authorities with regard to providing houses for the poorer classes. It gives details as to the types of houses most suitable, provides plans and draws up a standard of construction. The houses, it states, should be built for 60 years habitation, there should be 12 to an acre, and each house should have a small garden in front of it. Recommendations are also made as to the best arrangements of the rooms, the best means of ventilation, and the best materials for construction. It would be interesting to know whether any working-class women have been consulted before these plans were drawn up, and if not how far their views are met by the Local Government Board's recommendations, and the memorandum would provide a fruitful subject of discussion for a Women Citizen's Association.

One of the latest efforts of the Ministry of Food to promote economy is a conference of cooks, presided over by Mrs. Peel. Having had the scarcity of food clearly explained to them, they expressed the opinion that a similar conference of housemaids, parlourmaids, and butlers should be held, stating that their fellow cooks would be willing to do their best to economise if the situation was brought home to them. The conference also agreed that when the additional 450,000 men are called up for the army and women are needed to take their places, upper servants will be willing to dispense with their usual helpers provided that their employers would simplify the work in the home. All this shows much good sense on the part of the cooks. Too many mistresses are inclined to regard their servants as a constitutionally unreasonable class, on whom any effort to explain the reasons for changes made in the household arrangements will be wasted.

It was announced at the Conference that special courses for cooks in the new war cookery had been arranged by the Ministry.

On Tuesday Lady Rhondda opened the Central Co-operative Kitchen at 62, George's Road, Holloway Road, which is being run by the Northern Polytechnic. She expressed a hope that as the plant of the kitchen was very large an effort would be made to extend the good work by sending out well-cooked food to other centres, and hoped that in time similar kitchens would be established all over London, as they were much needed just now.

On the first day the kitchen served 500 portions and it will in future be able to serve as many as 2,500 portions. The prices are extremely moderate, use being made of whatever food is cheapest and most plentiful at the time, including the Government pickled herrings, which most retailers disdain to sell.

As there is a prospect of many co-operative kitchens being opened in many parts of London it has been decided that pupils will be taken at Northern Polytechnic, Holloway, N. 7, to learn the work.

A Food Saving Exhibition arranged by the Ministry of Food was opened on Monday by Sir Arthur Yapp at the Institute of Hygiene, Devonshire Street, W. 1., and will remain open till Saturday from 11 to 6 o'clock. Among the most interesting of the demonstrations given there was one in potato cookery. An apple pie with a potato crust was shown, and other simple uses of this vegetable were shown. Another demonstration was that of drying and preserving fruit and vegetables in an ordinary oven.

A conference convened at Glasgow to discuss the canteen system in munition works was addressed by Lord D'Abernon, Chairman of the Liquor Control Board, who said that industrial canteens might now be regarded as an essential factor in the solution of the drink problem. They had also an important bearing on the housing problem.

Miss Irwin, of the Women's Trade Council, said that canteens had made working girls realise the need for good, wholesome food.

Well-educated women between eighteen and twenty-five years of age are required for aircraft and other forms of munition work. Instruction will be given, and a weekly maintenance allowance made during training. Application should be made to the Director, Training Section, Ministry of Munitions, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

According to *The Sunday Evening Telegram*, a London firm of family solicitors are so convinced that women will before long be able to qualify as solicitors that they are willing to receive into their office a well-educated woman, in order that she may be articled when the existing barrier is removed.

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(Continued on page 552

Continued from page 351

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